

The World Wide Movement

British Labor Talks Rough.

In striking contrast to the officials of American labor organizations, who are bold only when ordering strikers back to work, and pusillanimous in their dealings with the bosses, is the attitude of the leaders of British labor. Speaking at the annual meeting of the Northumberland miners, "Bob" Smillie said the Federation would refuse to work under the Mines Bill, now before Parliament, which is aimed at its destruction. Smillie scoffed at reports in the press that nationalization is dead, saying that nationalization might come in another way than through a government elected for that purpose. "The miners of this country may make up their minds to refuse to produce coal any longer for the maintenance of private interests," he said.

Frank Hodges said that unless some great transformation took place the economic well-being of the miners and others dependent upon them would be seriously prejudiced. The determination of the miners that the people of the country should not pay the 14s. 2d. increase was, he said, the greatest example of their moral relationship to the country.

"Be prepared for the hardest fight in your history," continued Hodges. "Be prepared in your organization; be prepared with your commissariat and your co-operative movements; be prepared financially; be prepared for anything that may happen in the near future. I feel sure that the forces that are at work are such that we are in for the gravest period in our history."

Toward One Big Union in Australia

An industrial conference was recently held in Perth, Western Australia to deal with the question of forming One Big Union in that Australian State. It was decided to adopt the O. B. U. constitution on the same lines as that adopted in other Australian States with minor alterations, and to organize the workers on an industrial basis in 31 industrial sections instead of the present craft union system.

It was decided to call the O. B. U. by the official name of "The Work-

ers' Industrial Union of Australia, West Australian Section", with the head office situated at the Trades' Hall, Perth. The objective of the O. B. U. was set out as follows:—"To unite the workers of Australia in one organization, to replace the present competitive system by one of social ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange, and to advocate the formation of One Big Union of workers in Australia." The scheme was drafted under the following six departments: Building and Construction; Manufacture and General Production; Transportation and Communication; Agricultural, Land and Fisheries; Civil Service and Public Utilities; and Mining.

Rank-and-file movement in Germany.

The Berlin correspondent of the London Daily Herald reports the development of a strong rank-and-file movement among the coal miners in the Ruhr region. The officials of the German Miners' Union have adopted such a wavering policy that the members of the organization are showing a strong tendency to over-ride them and to take matters into their own hands. The "mine committees", which are somewhat similar to the British shop stewards, are being federated into a sort of unofficial economic soviet. One hundred and ten delegates of the rank and file, in a conference, decided to refuse all overtime work, unless the right of control over production, distribution and price of coal is given to the miners in cooperation with the consumers.

The German capitalists are very much alarmed at this powerful movement toward rank and file control which is developing among other important unions as well as the miners. That the capitalists feel a much closer kinship with the capitalists of Allied countries than with the workers of Germany is plainly indicated by the recent declaration of Hugo Stinnes, the great Westphalian coal magnate. He announced himself in favor of Allied occupation of the Ruhr district because the Allied troops would force the miners to work longer hours.

internationally against the bosses organized internationally.

Industrial Unionism in Ireland.

Organized labor in Ireland is developing along very advanced lines. It would be difficult to find a country where the theory of the One Big Union is more unquestioningly accepted by the rank and file of labor. Of the half million active trade unionists in Ireland half are now members of the great Transport and General Workers' Union.

This organization, founded by Jim Larkin in 1909 as a militantly class-conscious industrial union, is today one of the most advanced and powerful labor bodies in the world. Its recent growth has been phenomenal. 5 years ago during the ebb-tide which followed the outbreak of the war, it counted but 5,000 members in ten branches. Today it has 1250,000 members in 450 branches, including 40,000 agricultural workers, and further amalgamations—not federations—are going forward rapidly.

It is leading the way for a nationally organized and thoroughly industrialized Irish labor movement built on the same general principles as the I. W. W. in America.

REVAL, June 25.—(By Mail.)—N. Bureau.)—Strong protest against the arrest of 17 trade unionists in Batoum by British authorities has been made to men arrested included the Batoum labor council and the editorial staff of the labor paper, "The Voice of Labor." They have been taken to Malta, here they are held in close confinement. The manifesto appeals to the British workers to stop further "scoundrelly acts" by their government.

CALCUTA, INDIA—The revolutionary activities in India are growing so fast that the British authorities have decided to remove the mint of Calcutta from Bari Bazar where military defense is difficult, to the Hastings by the Ganges. In its position the mint can be easily commanded by the guns of the Calcutta fort; and if necessary may easily be shipped off.